

THE MISSIONARY CIRCLE.

ABOUT THE BOOKS.

A Description of the Books Selected by the Circle for the Three Year's Course of Reading.

The books of the Missionary Circle are all recent and are the very best works of the very best authors. Could every one know the blessings to be received in reading them, the course would need no urging upon the attention of the people. But alas, for us, we don't know, and because we don't know, we don't care.

Mr. Moody once saw a vision. The world lay before him in all the misery of its sin, and a voice called to him, "Moody, save all you can! Moody, save all you can!" and I am persuaded that that vision and that voice and that power is for all of us, and the purpose of this course is to clear away the mists that the vision may appear, and the purpose of this paper is to give a little glimpse of what will open in its glorious fulness to every earnest reader.

FIRST YEAR.

1. **Crisis of Missions.**—This is by Pierson, the missionary authority of to-day. Editor of the *Missionary Review*, and author of a dozen or more standard works, he brings from the accumulated wealth of a lifetime devoted to the work the most thrilling facts concerning the condition of the world to day. In brief chapters, crowded with burning truths, it is shown how God, working in his own mysterious ways, has been preparing the world for the gospel and the church for the work of carrying the gospel. It tells of barriers subsiding, doors opened, heathen religions and customs crumbling, peoples prepared, enemies of Christ used in preparing the way of the Lord—everything working together. People after people pass by in review, and one is thrilled as they see, as you cannot help but see, that the whole world is in a crisis. *It is now or never.* From a multitude of quickened hearts the answer is echoed, "*It shall be now.*" "The evangelism of the world in this generation" is written on our horizon. Do you want to see it? Read this book.

2. **Armenian Ampitheatre.**—In a small book one can read in two hours, a vivid account is given of the Armenian horrors which have scarcely a parallel in history. Here is a people, the first to receive the gospel, being exterminated before our eyes. The end must come, and such is the complexity of this "eastern question" that a general war may yet result. The book is enriched by numerous pictures and is of unusual interest.

3. **Do Not Say.**—This book will speak for itself. If you "think we have enough to do to support what we have," if you are "opposed to missionary fanaticism," for your own soul's sake read this book.

4. **Our Country.**—Few books can stir one to the depths like this one. By an array of facts and statistics that is overwhelming, the wonderful forces at work in our country are shown; its resources, its perils and possibilities, *the crisis upon it*, all are portrayed with a power that makes you feel called to preach the gospel. It is a home mission book and has had an enormous sale. I feel that God was in the writing of it.

5. **Sammy Morris.**—This African prince was a fellow-student of mine, and I wish to bear testimony to the marvelous power of this spirit-filled life. It is a true book. I could add many more to the wonderful things recorded of him. Several of our ministers are giving this book away for the revival it causes. Do you want to know of the deeper life and secret of power? This simple story can teach you as no theology can.

6. **Choice Extracts.**—The writings of F. B. Meyer, of London, have been more blessed than those of any man of these last days. Men came as far as a thousand miles to Winona Bible Conference this past summer to learn of him. He leads one into "the heavenly places in Christ Jesus." Read this little book and you will read everything you can find from him.

SECOND YEAR.

1. **The Greatest Work in the World.**—This you will read without stopping. It is on fire. Like a vision you see the black cloud of heathendom covering the earth, hear the Savior saying, "Go ye," see the hand of promise bright over all, and unless your heart be very cold, the motto on the horizon burns before you.

2. **The New Acts of the Apostles.**—Any one acquainted with missionary literature needs no introduction to this book. It is world famed. Its title explains it. It takes up the work in all its phases and in a way which holds and thrills you, tells of the new apostles, new deeds, new miracles, new times and seasons, new outpourings of blessing, new works of faith, new manifestations of the Spirit's power in ways as wonderful and varied as in apostolic days. This is one of the most powerful books of to-day. Its power is the power of facts and truth. The wonderful things recorded are authentic. With it there is a fine linen map in colors showing the religions of the world.

3. **Lady Missionaries in Foreign Lands.**—This is a series of biographies of workers in various countries, and shows us what it means to be a missionary. It gives valuable glimpses of native life, and supplies a place not filled by any of the other books.

4. **How to Study the Bible.**—After reading the other works the old Book of God is all the more precious. We want to know it better. This little book of Moody's opens many doors to our great treasure house.

THIRD YEAR.

1. **The New Era.**—This is the latest work of Prof Strong, and is even more remarkable than his first book, "Our Country." It deals with the problems before us, the living issues, moral questions, the destiny of the race, the mission of the church, new methods, neglected principles, etc. You must read it to understand. It is crowded with facts, and makes you feel as if you just woke up.

2. **Miracles of Missions.**—The title of this book is not a misnomer. In short chapters of intensest interest are collected the most wonderful events of missions, events which cannot be explained without God. The proofs are many and indisputable. It is a treasure house of illustrations that, as Jesus said, "My Father worketh even until now and I work."

3. **The Second Coming of Christ.**—There is more Scripture devoted to this precious doctrine than any other, and yet it has been largely neglected. Mr. Moody brings out those points plainly, substantiated by Scripture, and leads you far into the subject. It is full of light.

4. **Divine Enterprise of Missions.**—This is another of Pierson's best. It shows how the history of missions has been programmed. Surface events are the result of deep undercurrents guided by the hand of God. Chapter after chapter, filled with illustrations, unfolds the divine working. If the tongue of inspiration told the story of modern missionary enterprise, again would it be said, as of old, "The Spirit said, Go," or "The Spirit suffered not to go."

We are all inclined to sleep the sleep of indifference. Wrapped in the mantle of formality we grow blind and deaf and dead. To read is to see, is to FEEL, is to ACT.

This ends the course excepting the *Brethren Evangelist* or *King's Children* which are to be read throughout. A department in each will be devoted to this work. Notes from our own field, gleanings from the books, items from everywhere with contributed articles, monthly programs and Bible lessons will make up the menu. Every member of the church ought to read her literature. After all, the field of intensest activity is here at home. "As goes America so goes the world." To our home institutions we owe our first allegiance. We can never prosper abroad while neglecting honest obligations or duties at home.

Finally, nothing can take the place of the Book of books. These works, however helpful, are but commentaries upon it, and as in them we see the unfolding of divine Providence, our hearts burn within us, for we remember that "thus it is written" and the pages shine with new light, and if yet the vision be blurred, a daily season "alone with God" will open to the eye of faith the things which "the natural man receiveth not . . . for they are spiritually discerned."